



SAARC

Disaster Management Centre (IU)



Residential Workshop on 'Building Disaster Resilience for SAARC Member States in Riskier Times through Customized ESCAP's Risk & Resilience Analytics'

Date: 23-25 August 2023

Venue: SAARC Disaster Management Centre (IU), Gandhinagar

PROGRAM NOTE

Background

The SAARC region is facing multiple compounding and cascading crisis simultaneously. Impacts of global crises such as the pandemic, combined with the persistent reality of climate change, is reshaping the disaster riskscape. Under the new climate scenarios based on the 6th IPCC Assessment Report, the difference between 1.5 and 2 degrees Celsius is substantial and every fraction of a degree translates to increased and disproportionate impacts of heavy precipitation, high temperatures, drought, and surface winds in SAARC region. A recent example is the devastating floods in Pakistan that impacted over 32 million people and caused damages estimated at around \$30 billion. Floods and inundation of varying intensity was recorded across other countries including Afghanistan, Bangladesh, India, Nepal, and Sri Lanka. This followed soon after a deadly heatwave in South Asia.

United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP) Asia Pacific Disaster Report 2021 estimated the economic costs from the combined impacts of the disaster-climate-health nexus, considering two climate change scenarios. In absolute terms, under the worst-case scenario, India is set to record the highest average annual loss (AAL) at \$225 billion, followed by Pakistan at \$26 billion. However, when AAL is assessed as a percentage of the country's GDP the picture changes. For example, under the worst-case climate change scenario, Pakistan will have the highest losses as percentage of GDP at 9.1 per cent, followed by Nepal at 8.7 per cent. The changing climate could sharply diminish living conditions large number of the people in SAARC region. The extreme weather events do not stop at borders or national boundaries and often found to have transboundary origins and impacts.

The devastating economic, social and development impacts of climate related disasters have resulted in South Asia's lack of progress towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals



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(SDGs) and the Sendai Targets. The regression of SDG 13 – climate action reflects the cost of inaction both on adaptation and mitigation related goals and targets. There is a need for transformative action at the country and sub-regional level to better adapt and enhance resilience. It's in this context that ESCAP Risk and Resilience Portal (<https://rrp.unescap.org/>) is customized to accelerate transformative actions on adaptation and resilience pathways of climate action. The customized Portal can support SAARC member countries to identify key multi-hazard risk hotspots under various climate scenarios to accelerate adaptation and resilience actions across the key sectors and systems at national and regional levels.

Objective of the Workshop

The objective of the workshop is to train target policymakers from South Asia on using the Portal for risk informed decision making in multiple sectors. Based on the discussions, the SAARC specific site under the Risk and Resilience Portal can be updated and launched.

Course pedagogy

The training will be held in person, facilitated by trainers from UNESCAP and SAARC Disaster Management Centre (IU), joined by guest speakers from partner institutes. The training will include presentations, group exercises, discussions, and field visits.

Targeted participants (3 participants from each Member States)

This workshop aims to **engage 3 Senior Officers from Ministries (Disaster Management, Climate Change and Policy & Planning) and National Disaster Management Organizations (NDMOs)** from all the SAARC Member States.

Organizers

The 3 Day Residential Workshop on 'Building Disaster Resilience for SAARC Member States in Riskier times through Customized ESCAP's Risk & Resilience Analytics' will be organized jointly by SDMC (IU) and UNESCAP on 23 – 25 August 2023 for nominated officials from the SAARC Member States.

About SAARC Disaster Management Centre (IU)

SAARC Disaster Management Centre (SDMC-IU) has been set up at Gujarat Institute of Disaster Management (GIDM) Campus, Gandhinagar, Gujarat, India. SDMC (IU) is expected to serve SAARC Member States in disaster management initiatives. Since its operations at GIDM Campus, SDMC (IU), has conducted 21 residential capacity building programs and 6 webinars, wherein about 850 officials from the Member States were oriented, sensitized and



trained in collaboration with more than 190 domain experts hailing from various regional and global organisations

About United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) is one of the five regional commissions under the jurisdiction of the United Nations Economic and Social Council. It was established in order to increase economic activity in Asia and the Far East, as well as to foster economic relations between the region and other areas of the world. The commission is composed of 53 Member States and nine Associate members, mostly from the Asia and Pacific regions. The region covered by the commission is home to 4.1 billion people, or two-thirds of the world's population, making ESCAP the most comprehensive of the United Nations' five regional commissions.

Date & Venue

The workshop will be organized in the Seminar Hall of SDMC (IU), Gandhinagar, in Gujarat, India. The dates of the workshop are 23 to 25 August, 2023.
